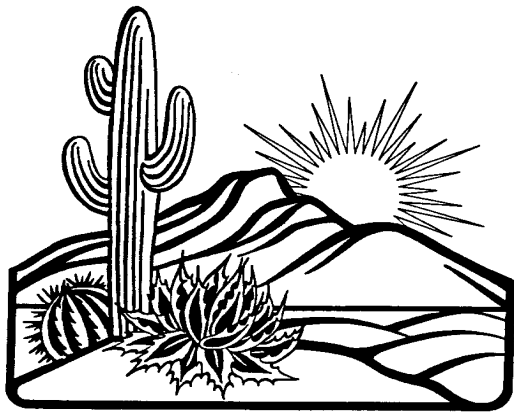


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COMMUNIQUE

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
June 2006 Volume 39 Number 6

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, June 8th – Our guest speaker for June will be **Guillermo Rivera** all the way from Argentina. Since he has traveled many miles to be with us let's have a large turnout to welcome him to Southern California. Guillermo's presentation will be on Parodia and Trichocereus.

Plants of the Month: (see the attached write ups)

CACTI – *Astrophytum* SUCCULENT – *Fouquieria*

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride and joy.

Study Group: Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine Room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium). These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something! Join us on Wednesday, **June 21** (mark your calendar as this is not the week following the monthly meeting). Our discussion for June will be Baja California plants.

Personal Notes: SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members **Thomas Morrison** and **Stefan Szalkowski**. Carefully review the COMMUNIQUE and the Roster in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club. Also, take a look at the Club's web site www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/.

Although it may seem that **Rene and Patty Caro** dropped off the face of the earth, they have just relocated to Durango, Colorado. Their new address is: 125 Rustic Road, Durango, CO 81301.

Club Picnic: The club picnic will be held on Saturday July 8th at the home of **Jean and Pat Mullens**. More details will be in the July COMMUNIQUE, including a list of items where help is needed. For too many years the bulk of the work involved has been done by just a few people.

Upcoming Events: Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events and flyers for June events. Events are added, deleted or changed frequently so don't forget to take a look at the Calendar of Events every month.

Member's Corner: **Horace Birgh** has a large quantity of plastic pots ranging in size from 2 ½" to 5 gallons that he would like to give to other club members. If you can use any of these pots let Horace know at the next club meeting and he will make arrangements to get them to you.

May Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

Cacti-	Lobivia	Echinopsis		Succulent-	Echeveria
Beginner					
1st	Betty Farfan	L, Hybrid	1st	Mari Johnson	E. agavoides
2nd	Daniel Veelik	E. species	2nd	Mari Johnson	E. "Ghost Busters"
3rd	Betty Farfan	E. species	3rd	Evelyn Maxwell	E. cante
Intermediate					
1st	Barbara Nolan	L. crassica????	1st	Jean Mullens	E. x "Lipstick"
2nd	Barbara Nolan	Peanut Cactus	2nd	Barbara Nolan	E. Crest
3rd	Barbara Nolan	L. species	3rd	Dick Tatman	E. "Blue Curls"
Advanced					
1st	No Entries		1st	Tom Vermilion	E, "Blue Curls"
2nd			2nd	Tom Vermilion	E. x agavoides
3rd			3rd	Rita Gerlach	E. affinis
Master					
1st	No Entries		1st	Jim Hanna	E. gibbiflora hybrid
2nd			2nd	Jim Hanna	E. gibbiflora hybrid
3rd			3rd		

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the information to the address given below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice. Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: sgv_css@prodigy.net or via post to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Evelyn Stevens, 10119 ½ E. Olive St., Temple City, CA 91780-3345. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.

May you never miss a rainbow or a sunset because you are looking down.
Author Unknown

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month June 2006 - *Astrophytum*

Astrophytum are often one of the first cacti that a collector buys. They are inexpensive, available in discount stores, groceries, and home centers. How can anyone resist the \$2 special Bishop's Cap? More than a few show plants started out this way, but most are soon dead. Keeping seedlings alive for the first year or so is much more difficult than maintaining a mature plant. Growing a perfect, 10 or 20 year old specimen plant is a challenge few growers can master. Fortunately, the genus offers rewards and surprises at every level between novice and master, making it one of the most popular genera of cacti.

Astrophytum are native to Southern Texas and Northern Central Mexico. They grow in a very arid region, with a porous mineral soil. One of the cultivation difficulties with *Astrophytum* is their tendency to split open from sudden increases in soil moisture level. To avoid this, keep them in a soil that is very quick to drain, and which has little organic matter. A mixture of pumice and gravel or very coarse sand, with only a little potting soil is best for these plants.

The roots are designed to pump up as much moisture as possible in as short a time as possible from infrequent rains. In a slow draining potting mix they will do this very effectively, and the body of the plant will swell, but the skin will not. Eventually the body pressure gets too great and the skin cracks.



Astrophytum capricorne exhibited by Laura Ostler in the 2001 Inter-city Show

There are currently four recognized species; however, there are older plants, clearly visibly different from the recognized species available in the trade. There are also varieties of the species, cultivars, and hybrids, all worth growing.

Growers in Japan and more recently in Thailand have developed some spectacular clones, cultivars and hybrids. The Japanese cultivars of *A. asterias* are sold under the name of *A. Super Kabuto* and *A. Miracle Kabuto*. Some of these special clones with intricate patterns can sell for more than \$100, when first developed. After a few years of propagation, the price drops to

levels that most can afford. Look for some of these special clones at upcoming shows and sales.

All the Astros:



Astrophytum asterias exhibited by Carol and Paul Maker in the 2001 Inter-city Show

Astrophytum asterias is the smallest of the species. It is the hardest to grow well, prone to splitting if over watered. It is the parent plant for many of the best hybrids. From the Chihuahuan Desert of Northern Mexico. It has prominent spineless areoles,

Astrophytum capricorne is generally the longest spined species. The spines are generally twisted and curved. Although young plants are globular, they soon become ovoid, and eventually columnar. It is widespread in the Chihuahuan Desert.



Astrophytum myriostigma exhibited by Vince Basta in the 2001 Inter-city Show

Astrophytum myriostigma is the well known 'Bishops Cap.' Although usually five sided, four sided six, seven and eight sided clones are also common. Spiral forms, are also well known as are some very large clones. *A. myriostigma* v. *columnare* can grow to several feet.

Astrophytum ornatum from Hidalgo can grow to 12 inches in diameter and three feet in height. The spines are straight, yellow brown, and the woolly areoles tend to come in patches.

References:

Anderson, E. **The Cactus Family**
Cullman,

Kobayashi, A. *Cacti and Succulents in Japan. Part 3- Some Cultivars of *Astrophytum asterias* and *A. myriostigma* in the **CSSA Journal Vol. 68, p 245 (1996)***

Preston-Mafham, **Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Photos T. Nomer

Tom Glavich May 2006

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month June 2006 - Fouquieria

Fouquieria is a genus of about a dozen species native to Mexico and the Southwest and California. The genus is the sole member of the family *Fouquieriaceae*. The family has no close relatives.

and seed collection made them available. They are all slow growing, so getting a large size plant is still expensive for most species. This will change as many of the rarer species are now in cultivation.



Fouquieria columnaris near El Rosario, Baja California Norte



Fouquieria fasciculata at the Huntington Library

Fouquieria are a major part of the California and Arizona desert flora. The sculptural forms of *Fouquieria splendens*, better known as Ocotillo grace most desert areas, being particularly plentiful in Joshua tree National Monument and other preserved desert lands.

Fouquieria columnaris, known by many other names (Boojum, Cirio, Idria, etc.) defines the desert views of much of Baja California.

Many of the *Fouquieria* species have been nearly impossible to find until recently, when vegetative propagation of choice specimens

All of the species make great pot and show plants, when pruned and displayed at their best. A few species, such as *Fouquieria splendens* make good garden plants over much of the geographical range of our club. They can be sensitive to too much water in the wrong season, and too much organic matter in the soil, but if sufficient drainage is applied and water from garden sprinklers is avoided, good growth generally results.

Many of the Mexican species make the best show and display plants. Although they are harder to come by, they have the best roots, pachycaul trunks and caudexes. The figure on the previous page shows *Fouquieria fasciculata* growing in the ground at the Huntington. Although it is native to Hidalgo, Mexico, and relatively rare even there, it can be found and grown in the ground, if given sufficient protection.

Some of the other species, such as *Fouquieria purpusii* and *Fouquieria ochoteranae*, both of which come from Oaxaca, should be treated as tropical succulents, and never allowed to get cold and wet at the same time.

Almost all of the *Fouquieria* will leaf out more than once per year, depending on the water. As the roots dry, the leaves quickly turn brown and drop off. A good soaking rain will start leaf growth again.

Fouquieria can be propagated from seed, and seed for even some of the rarest species has become available, though pricey. Good seed germinates quickly, usually within 10 days. The seedling plants need bright light, protection from drying sun, high humidity, and good watering practice. After a few weeks they begin to resemble *Fouquieria*, although not necessarily the spectacular species they will become. They should be moved up in pot size relatively quickly, with care taken not to damage the seedling roots on the first couple of transplants.

Fouquieria can also be propagated by cuttings. Cuttings of branches should be taken just as they begin to leaf out. A good hormonal treatment (best success seems to be coming from the rooting hormone gels) will get the cuttings to root. Rooting is best with a little bottom heat, but cool, moving air around the leaves. As might be expected, the rare species are hardest to root, and the common species are easiest.

All of the *Fouquieria* tolerate being planted in shallow pots (in habitat they often start in cracks between rocks), as long as they are properly watered. These are all oddly shaped plants, and encourage creative staging treatment. *Fouquieria macdougallii* shown below is readily available, easy to grow and inexpensive. It is a great one to start with.



Fouquieria macdougallii

Tom Glavich May 2006

Calendar of Events - 2006

- *June 3rd - 4th** San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society – Show and Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info (619) 477-4779
- *June 10th** Gates C&SS 29th Show and Sale. Show (1-4 Sat, 9-4 Sun); Sale (9-4 Sat and Sun),
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Glen Avon, CA.
Info (909) 360-8802.
- *June 10th** Grand Opening – Desert Creations –info on page 9
15914 Rayen Street, North Hills, CA 91343
- *Jun 30th- Jul 2nd** CSSA Annual Show and Sale – Sale (30th- 2nd)- Show (1st- 2nd) Huntington Botanical
Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA (626) 405-2160 or 2277.
- July 8th** Club Picnic at the home of Jean and Pat Mullens
- July 15th – 16th** Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA
Show Info call (818) 363-3432
- August 19th-20th** 21st Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum,
301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA . Info Call Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430,
Barbara Hall (818) 368-6914
- September 2nd** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium
All Day at the Huntington.
- September 24th** Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St.,
Compton (Dominguez Hills), CA.
- October 14th-15th** SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave,
Arcadia CA.

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Cactus and Succulent SHOW & SALE

JUNE 30, JULY 1 & 2

SHOW PLANT
EXHIBITORS
RECEIVE A FREE
ADMISSION PASS TO
ALL THE GARDENS
& PUBLIC
BUILDINGS WITHIN
THE HUNTINGTON
BOTANICAL
GARDENS

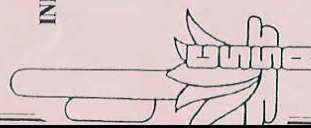
INFO: (310) 822-1783

SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:30 am
SHOW: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am

Free Admission to Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino
For Information Call - (626) 405-2100



Gates Cactus & Succulent Society

31st Annual Show and Sale

June 10, 2006

From 9:00AM till 5:00PM



Held At

Green Faire 2006

Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center

7621 Granite Hill Dr.

Riverside, CA

951-685-5818 for Information

Children's Activity Table

Plant a garden for \$1.00 (Kids Only)

Buy Plants from The Grower

Member Growers on hand

Selling Plants

Judged Show

Cacti and Succulents

More than 400 rare and

Exotic Plants on Display

Other Plant Societies and related groups Selling Plants and offering advice

San Bernardino County Master Gardeners

Inland Empire Iris Society

California Rare Fruit Growers

Orchid Society

Riverside County Master Gardeners

Inland Koi Society

Granite Hill

Gardens Nursery

Offering a Wide array of
rare and unusual Cacti &

Succulents



Grand Opening

Desert Creations
Unique and rare succulents and cacti

Open House
June 10 and 11
10:30 to 4:30

Drop by at your convenience and enjoy the opening week festivities which include:

- ❖ 10 percent off orders less than \$200
- ❖ 15 percent off order between \$200 and less than \$500
- ❖ 20 percent off orders \$500 or more
- ❖ Refreshments

15914 Rayen Street North Hills California 91343
Located in the San Fernando Valley approximately 5 minutes from CSUN
Exit the 405 Freeway at Nordoff

Contact information:
Phone number: (818) 482*8795
Email address: sfrieze@csudh.edu

LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 8TH ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE JULY 15 & 16, 2006

Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO

This will be a non-judged show. Members show for FREE! Everyone is welcome to show plants!

Invite your friends! Non-members can show for only \$10 !!

Beginners and children will be comfortable showing alongside seasoned competitors!

Every participant will receive a fabulous Participation Certificate!

Plants shown and for sale will include many rare specimens you will not find at your local nursery!

New members will receive the LACSS monthly informative publication

Cactus Chronicle and a 2006 membership

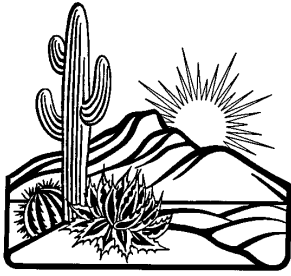
in the *Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society*.

FRIDAY SET-UP 12:00PM TO 8:00PM

SATURDAY 9:00AM TO 5:00PM

SUNDAY 9:00AM TO 4:00PM

Contact Artie Chavez for Information : 818-363-3432



COMMINQUE
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
c/o Evelyn Stevens
10119 ½ E. Olive Street
Tempe City, CA 91780

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